

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A locking system for locking the sides of cribs for infants, the system comprising:

crib uprights, each of said uprights being provided with a guide groove there along, wherein each guide groove has a top comprising a curve and continues to a terminal portion, the terminal portion comprising a first portion extending along a vertical direction, an undercut and a recess, the recess being formed opposite the undercut;

a crib side that can be raised and lowered along said crib uprights adjacent to it, said side being provided on each side with a pin which is slidable in a guide groove provided along each of said uprights, and in which a top of said groove has a curve and continues with a terminal portion directed downwards, said terminal portion being shaped to form an undercut in which corresponding said guide groove and the pin is engaged with said undercut to prevent the raising of the side, and a recess formed opposite the undercut;

a flat spring having an active part extending at the connection between the first portion of the terminal portion and the undercut, said recess communicating with said guide groove with the interposition of said flat spring, said flat spring being configured so to normally keep the pin in the undercut and so that, when said flat spring is bent back by a force exerted on the side, said spring enables the pin to move into the recess to a sufficient extent to become disengaged from the undercut and continue along said guide groove, wherein in the first portion of the terminal portion the pin slides freely in order to reach the undercut, and as the pin is housed in the undercut, the spring is not biased by the force exerted on the side.

2. (Original) A locking system according to claim 1, wherein said curve of said guide groove is directed towards an interior of the crib, and said undercut is directed in an opposite direction.

3. (Original) A locking system according to claim 1, wherein said guide groove and said recess are formed in a longitudinal plate to be fixed to said upright of said crib, and said flat spring is partially embedded in the plate.

4. (Original) A locking system according to claim 3, wherein said plate is made from plastic material.

5. (Original) A locking system according to claim 2, wherein said guide groove and said recess are formed in a longitudinal plate to be fixed to said upright of said crib, and said flat spring is partially embedded in the plate.

6. (Original) A locking system according to claim 5, wherein said plate is made from plastic material.

7. (Original) A locking system according to claim 1, wherein said guide groove and said pin have complementary T-shaped cross sections.

8. (New) An infant crib locking system comprising:

at least two crib corner uprights facing each other and spaced apart at a distance, each upright including a guide groove with a vertical guide portion having a first portion extending downward and another portion extending upward and curving to extend in an opposite direction, said another portion extending to a directional change sharply turning toward said vertical guide portion, said guide groove having a recess on an outer periphery of said directional change;

a vertically movable crib side with a pin on each end designed to slide in said guide groove; and

10 a flat spring with an active part having a normal position and a forced position, said active part positioning against said recess to narrow a width of said groove at said normal position not biased by the weight of said crib side and said active part urged to widen said width in said forced position, wherein said pin slides in said guide groove and engages into said directional change during said normal position by action of sole gravity to prevent raising
15 of said crib side and upon an exerted force, said pin moves into said recess during said forced position and becomes disengaged and said pin continues along said guide groove.